

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061581

TOSEC 128, ZFF MOSCOW ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UR, UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHES TO UK AND US

REF: A. STATE 54993; B. USUN 993; C. NICOSIA 476;

D. LONDON 3769; E. STATE 59325

1. IN 26 MARCH CALL ON CYPRUS DIRECTOR, UK EMBOFFS
WILBERFORCE AND CORNISH SHOWED US TEXT OF SOVIET DEMARCHE
TO UK AND REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE SOVIET DEMARCHE TO
THE US. BRITS REPORTED THAT ON 18 MARCH SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TO UK (SEMINOV) CALLED ON MINISTER OF STATE HATTERSLEY IN
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ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND DELIVERED IN-

FORMAL "PAPER" WHICH WAS IDENTICAL IN MOST RESPECTS OF THAT DELIVERED ON SAME DAY TO ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES. CONTRARY TO LONDON 3769 AND USUN 993, DEMARCHE DID MAKE REQUEST TO UK TO "HELP NORMALIZE THE SITUATION" (WITHOUT SPECIFICS), AND DID MENTION SOVIET CONCERN OVER ALLEGED GRECO-TURKISH COLLUSION AND GOG ACTIONS HOSTILE TO CYPRUS' INDEPENDENCE.

2. ACCORDING BRITISH, UK GAVE NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSE AND EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER WHY SOVIETS FELT NEED TO INTER- VENE DIPLOMATICALLY AT A TIME WHEN PROSPECTS FOR INTER- COMMUNAL SETTLEMENT APPEARED BETTER THAN IN RECENT MONTHS.

3. BRITISH POINTED OUT THAT UK HAS INSTRUCTED ITS

AMBASSADORS IN ANKARA AND ATHENS TO INFORM HOST GOVERN- MENTS OF SOVIET DEMARCHE. THEIR APPROACH TO GOG AND GOT WILL SIMPLY INFORM GOVERNMENTS OF SOVIET APPROACH AND REQUEST THEIR ASSESSMENT OF IT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT SOVIET DEMARCHE TO US, COUNTRY DIRECTOR OBSERVED THAT SOVIET DEMARCHES TO UK AND US AND OUR RESPECTIVE RESPONSES WERE VERY SIMILAR. US REPLY WAS POLITE BUT NON-COMMITTAL SINCE WE WISHED TO KEEP SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND SOVIETS ON CYPRUS BUT AT SAME TIME DID NOT WISH TO CLOSE OFF CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. WE ALSO TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT WE SUPPORTED A "SINGLE, SOVEREIGN, AND INDEPENDENT" CYPRUS, THAT WE WERE AWARE OF RUMORS CIRCULATING IN CYPRUS BUT HAD NO SOLID EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THEM, AND THAT WE WERE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND WITH CONCERN. SOVIET INITIATIVE HAD COME AT AWKWARD TIME--ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP. GIVEN POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET MOVE ON NATO AND DETENTE POLICY AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY THAT DEMARCHE MIGHT BE RAISED IN MOSCOW, US WISHED TO HOLD DEMARCHE CLOSELY UNTIL SITUATION CLEARER.

5. UK EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT FACT SOVIETS MADE DEMARCHE TO GREECE, TURKEY AND UK, AS WELL AS TO US, SUGGESTS THEY MOTIVATED BY GENUINE CONCERN OVER SITUATION RATHER THAN CONFIDENTIAL

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BY DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CYPRUS AS AREA OF JOINT US-USSR RESPONSIBILITY. THEY ALSO ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED BY JOINT GOT-GOG ACTION OR BY UNILATERAL GOG ACTIONS, AND WE SAID WE JUDGED IT TO BE THE LATTER, BUT THAT, IN ANY CASE, SOVIETS--AT LEAST TO SOME DEGREE--CONCEIVED OF THEIR ACTIONS AS PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY.

6. COMMENT: OUR EFFORTS TO SHUFFLE SOVIET INITIATIVE INTO OBSCURITY (NICOSIA 505) COMPLICATED BY UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW SERIOUSLY SOVIETS REGARD SITUATION, WHETHER OR NOT CYPRUS WILL BE RAISED BY SOVIETS DURING SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP, AND FACT THAT ASPECTS SOVIET INITIATIVES HAVE SURFACED IN LONDON, ANKARA, UN CIRCLES AND THE CYPRIOT PRESS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DOUBT THAT SOVIET DEMARCHE TO US CAN BE CLOSELY HELD FOR VERY LONG.

7. FOR NICOSIA: AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR TIME IN SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH MAKARIOS AND SHOULD ADDRESS HIS ESTIMATE OF ATHENS' INTENTIONS AS PART OF A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON. IF MAKARIOS OR FONMIN RAISES SOVIET APPROACH TO US SUGGEST YOU REPLY DRAWING ON POINTS MADE BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH VORONTSOV (STATE 54993) AND THE FORMULATION IN

PARAGRAPH 2 OF NICOSIA 505. DEPARTMENT ALSO AGREES THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH UK HICOM WOULD BE USEFUL AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON THE POINTS MADE ABOVE AND IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF NICOSIA 505 IN YOUR REPLY.

8. FOR ANKARA AND ATHENS: SOVIET DEMARCHE TO US LIKELY TO COME TO ATTENTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS VERY SOON. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE SUBJECT IN LOW KEY MANNER DURING NEXT TOUR D'HORIZON ON CYPRUS WITH FONOFF CONTACTS. YOU SHOULD SIMPLY INFORM INTERLOCUTORS THAT SOVIETS HAVE MADE DEMARCHE TO USG EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN AS TO THE INTENTIONS OF ATHENS AND ANKARA TOWARD CYPRUS, AND THAT IN POLITE AND NON-COMMITTAL REPLY WE INFORMED SOVIETS OF US SUPPORT FOR A PEACEFULLY NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BASED ON A SINGLE, INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN CYPRUS. RUSH
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